

From: Victoria Welch
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/14/01 2:01pm
Subject: Comments on microsoft anti-trust case.

Dear Sir or Madam,

My comments for the Microsoft Anti-Trust Case.

Microsoft has been determined guilty of violating anti-trust laws and the penalty phase just seems to miss the mark, I am hearing comments on the street that the U.S. Government is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft. I will admit that I find the "penalties" somewhat perplexing in that they certainly seem to miss the mark rather completely.

I personally think that is probably a little radical, but then I see demo copies of Microsoft's XP operating system on all the workbenches of my local post offices and I do wonder what is going on here. I do not see any other vendors product demos available there. This seems to indicate implicit approval of Microsoft products and no other by a government entity?

The following are the flaws that I see in the "penalties" that essentially seem to leave Microsoft better off than they were before the trial.

I do not see that Microsoft is penalized in any way in that there is no separation of integrated software that harms and stifles competition to the microsoft operating system. Further I see no provisions for computer manufacturers to be able to offer other and more viable operating systems in a fair and price competitive atmosphere - essentially nothing has changed.

I do not see that the proprietary protocols for the operating system, networking and other elements are to be made public in order that others may have equal opportunity to develop applications in a spirit of healthy competition and to encourage innovation. Microsoft appears to be allowed to maintain the closed, proprietary and monopolistic systems that started this process. Again it appears that nothing has changed and it will be business as usual for Microsoft.

In Washington State, Microsoft continues with its obnoxious and heavy handed practices only now in a new area. Their handling of their Internet Service Provider (ISP) business seems to be following the same basic marketing strategy that they used with their operating systems. This has even been noted in the Seattle times Newspaper in a city where normally Microsoft can do no wrong:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/134378212_qwest14m0.html

Again, it appears to be business as usual for Microsoft.

Thus I am perplexed at the current "penalties" being "imposed" on Microsoft. They seem to be more of an encouragement for Microsoft to continue in the same ways it has been and those are the very same ones that brought this issue to the DOJ in the first place. If these are implemented as currently stated then fair business practices, innovation and competition are DEAD in the computer field.

I do use Microsoft products, a very few are reasonably decent but I am forced to use others because the only option I have for them is other Microsoft products. Because of this my time is considerably less efficiently used in repairing and working to keep the systems going rather than accomplishing work that I need to do. If one does not expect much from the computers running Microsoft products then they are not the absolute worst products on the planet. If you expect much from them and / or use them heavily then you are going to rather constantly going to have them fail to the loss of time, effort and money. On days when I am working hard it is common to have to reboot my machine to recover my working ability at least several times. As time goes on from the initial (or subsequent complete re-install of the operating system) the situation grows steadily worse. The overall cost of running Microsoft products is incredibly high and far higher than it ever should be were Microsoft concerned with more than creating a market for the next version of its products. Bluntly quality is not job one.

In order that Microsoft be brought into line and with any hope of curbing their horrid business practices, it will take REAL penalties and serious oversight. With the obscene amounts of money that Microsoft has managed to accumulate through its less than fair business practices (to be kind) there is some doubt as to whether that can actually be accomplished. It has become quite obvious to anyone working in the field that there is no honor or integrity in Microsoft, only the search for more money in complete disregard for the good of the industry, the users and at this point in time it becomes rather blatantly obvious that national security is at risk due to the poor quality and serious lack of attention to security that is epidemic in their products. That alternatives are few is a direct result of the issues that DOJ is supposed to be addressing in this matter.

I've been told that I am wasting my time here in that Microsoft can pay people to submit positive comments for this business enhancing solution that has been proposed as a "punishment". They have done the same things in the past, that is pretty much common knowledge. I can only hope that DOJ will prove wise, not be bought out by Microsoft and free the industry for the good of the consumer and the country.

Thank you for your time and effort in this matter.

Sincerely, Christine V. Welch

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"Walking on water and developing software to specification are
easy as long as both are frozen" - Edward V. Berard.
Do not unto others, that which you would not have others do unto you.
"Micro\$oft Windows. I'll bet you can't install it just once!"